



Brac Vacations Newsletter

Cayman Airways Announces New Inter-Island Service

In late November, Cayman Airways announced that it would begin service to Little Cayman on December 15th using a Twin Otter (De Havilland DHC-6-300). According to Mr. Mike Adam, President and CEO of Cayman Airways "The addition of service to Little Cayman will complete our inter-island service pattern and we believe that this service is the natural next step for Cayman Airways, as the national flag carrier of the Cayman Islands. The service will provide locals with more options in air travel to the Sister Islands and will provide overseas visitors with the ability to book travel straight through to Little Cayman on one carrier,". This service will also benefit Cayman Brac with the addition of a new daily flight schedule. At present there are 3 flights per day scheduled between the 3 islands. This is expected to increase in the early part of 2004. For more information and schedules visit the Cayman Airways web site at www.caymanairways.com.



Cayman Airways

www.866thebrac.com

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Toll Free: 1-866-the-brac (866-843-2722)



*Strawberry Sponges on the wall at Little Cayman.
Photo by Karen & Ian Stewart*

Winter Travel Prices Drop to New Lows

Winter is usually the peak season for vacation travel and prices are often the highest at that time. However, with the economy still in a slump and tourism down, many Caymanian resorts are pulling out all the stops to attract visitors. Airlines are also trying to help by offering such programs as buy one ticket get the second for free. Brac Vacations is no exception. From January 1 through April 15, you can get a week of accommodations at Brac Caribbean or Carib Sands, 6 days of morning dives with Reef Divers, continental breakfast, taxes and transfers for a low price of \$777 USD. So why not consider a dive vacation on Cayman Brac. The price is pretty hard to beat. Call Brac Vacations toll free at 866-843-2722 or send us an email at info@866thebrac.com.

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Quincentennial Ends with A Fireworks Display

The celebration of the Cayman Islands 500th birthday ended with a bang - literally! On December 26th, the Quincentennial Committee put on an island wide party. Kids tried their hands (and legs) at climbing a grease pole with \$100 as the winning prize; maypole dancing was demonstrated; skits performed and lots of good food was eaten. Later in the evening a fabulous fireworks display was presented. It was quite the conclusion to a fun year.

The year won't easily be forgotten. A new park was established on the bluff for all to enjoy in the years ahead. The park, named the Christopher Columbus Gardens, is home to the Sister Islands District Monument and Wall of Distinction. The monument depicts the Bluff, an iguana, a parrot, a catboat and a coil of thatch - all reminders of Cayman Brac today and yesterday. The Wall of Distinction is created of Cayamanite and glass blocks. It honors 500 people who have made notable contributions to the development of the Sister Islands.



Family Week In July

Cayman Brac's second annual Family Week will run from July 11-18, 2004. It will be a fun week of activities for kids of all ages. Families will be able to enjoy island tours, hiking, bird watching, craft projects, island markets and much much more. A complete schedule of events can be found at www.naturecayman.com under the Events heading. For just \$859 for adults and \$359 for kids (2-11), your family can enjoy 7 nights accommodation at either Brac Caribbean Beach Village or Carib Sands Beach Resort, flights from Miami, transfers from the airport and the Family Week pass. For reservations and flight information contact Brac Vacations toll free at 866-843-2722 or via email at info@866thebrac.com.

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Cayman Brac's Caves

One of the highlights of visiting Cayman Brac is to be able to spend an afternoon or longer seeing some of the many caves. To many the word "caves" depicts dark scary places full of creatures that would frighten the bravest of us. But Brac's caves are really quite enjoyable to visit. After all, in times past they played host to many islanders during bad weather. There are 5 easily accessible caves on the island. Two of them, Rebecca's Cave and Bat Cave, are even within bike riding distance of the majority of resorts. The other 3 are somewhat further but worth a visit. Bat Cave does have bats in it but they usually are well back in the recesses during the day. Great Cave requires some ladder climbing but once inside it has some beautiful rock formations. Peter's Cave, high on the bluff, has a rather small opening that requires you to get on all fours for entry but inside it opens up and again has some spectacular rock formations. Halfway Ground Cave, also known as Skull Cave (that's what the entrance looks like), is near the hospital and is very open. Anyone on the island can give you directions to the caves, or you may want to request a tour with one of the local guides. This service is offered free of charge and they will give you lots of details about the island and its flora and fauna at the same time.



*Karen examines some of the rock formations in Great Cave.
Photo by Ian Stewart.*

Brac Vacations

Referral Contest

Don't forget to sign up for the Brac Vacations Referral Contest. It's easy and you could win a week for 2 at Brac Caribbean Beach Village or Carib Sands Beach Resort. Simply go to the Brac Vacations web site at www.866thebrac.com and click on the referral contest. Enter the required information and you are on your way. The winner will be announced on April 30, 2004.

Grouper Fishing in Grouper Holes is Banned for 8 Years

On December 29, 2003, an eight year ban on fishing at grouper spawning sites in the Cayman Islands went into effect. The Nassau Grouper, which is regarded as an endangered species in the Caribbean, used to spawn at 5 major sites in Cayman waters. Overfishing has reduced that number to just one. Spawning season occurs during the full moon in January and February. The Nassau Grouper is a long lived and slow growing fish. It can take up to 8 years for it to mature and participate in the spawning. At present there are no spawning aggregations upstream of the Cayman Islands and others to the west are in serious decline. Other Caribbean countries such as Belize have also banned fishing in their grouper holes in an attempt to allow recovery of the population.

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